

Mississippi Sound Watershed

The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program (MS_RESTORE_003_000_Cat1)



Project Name: The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program - Planning & Implementation

Cost: \$2,270,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Mississippi

Project Details: This project establishes a comprehensive Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program (MSEP). The MSEP will geographically encompass the Pearl River on the west to the Escatawpa River in the east.

The project will fund the strategic development of a vision, mission, and coordinated restoration action plan as well as initial coordination efforts that will look across all current funding, leverage existing efforts (Mississippi Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Tool, Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program) and provide an avenue of strategic coordination of coastal restoration investment. This project also includes the initiation of a coordinated and collaborative effort to create a coupled river—to-Mississippi Sound hydrodynamic model as a foundation for sustainable coastal restoration.

Activities: The project will develop a strategic comprehensive restoration action plan for sustainable coastal restoration, convene advisory teams, initiate a coordinated and collaborative effort to create a coupled river–to-Mississippi Sound hydrodynamic model, host or engage in annual restoration planning discussions that will highlight coastal restoration specific work in the MSEP area of interest and the Mississippi Sound, and create a 10-year funding strategy for MSEP.

Environmental Benefits: The establishment of the MSEP will create a single program whereby networks of government, scientists and academia, concerned citizens, and community organizations can be integrated into policy discussions, nurture stronger interpersonal ties between individuals, and act as a bridge to address terrestrial, estuarine, and open water concerns for the Mississippi Sound.

Duration: Planning and implementation activities are expected to take up to three years to complete.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix E. Mississippi Sound; Unique Identifier: MS_RESTORE_003_000_Cat1.

